

70 In Sixteenth Year, Isaak Walton Renews Conservation Efforts

BY ARTHUR GOLDSMITH.

In August, 1923, a group of sportsmen held a meeting in the K. of P. Building, South Eighth Street. James F. McKenna, editor of The Terre Haute Post, was the chairman, and set a meeting date for September, 1923, which date was advertised and brought out the following sportsmen, who signed the charter of the Terre Haute Chapter of the Isaak Walton League of America. Some of these men are still active members: Fred Elnecke, E. T. Hulman, Paul H. Hayward, H. L. Stone, Harry Forbes, Ed J. Sonier, Ray Gilkinson, J. W. Hauck, W. J. Bahr, F. D. Toner, O. C. Hornung, H. O. Hornung, Curtis D. Wright, George W. Davis, William H. Steeg, L. J. Quinlan, Charles Scholl, F. W. Clamplitt, V. R. McMillan, Ed Tetzel, Sr., Ed Tetzel, Jr., Thomas E. Doughitt, George J. Beck, W. Rex Bell, Ed F. Leever, Don A. Legge, E. H. Bindley, Harry Gauger, W. C. Mitchell, George H. Schaffer, Montgomery E. Orr, Alfred J. Suttle, James R. Lyons, C. A. Wallace, Carl M. Miller, Manford Kindle, Dr. W. Ed Williams, Robert Irwin, Walter G. Evans, Harry J. Moore, C. A. Geiser, George A. Denham, Earl Shagley, E. B. Sheets, Sam G. Rover, S. G. Barrett, O. I. Richardson, J. O. Stitt, C. E. Pigg, James Willson Terrell.

Harry Moore was elected president at this meeting and Harry Forbes was elected secretary.

Ozark Ripley was the first nationally known speaker brought to Terre Haute in the interest of outdoor life and conservation.

The chapter was very active in many undertakings sponsored by the national headquarters of the league and, by personal solicitation, the members of the local chapter did their part toward securing the 1,000 acres on the upper Mississippi River for federal wild-life refuge; for the elk refuge of 2,000 acres at Jackson Hole, Wyoming; the Horicon Marsh of 40,000 acres for federal wild-life refuge, and creating the international playgrounds of northern Minnesota in the Superior National Forest.

However, up to 1923 the Terre Haute Waltonians had no clubhouse or home. In that year E. L. Shanberger gave the Terre Haute chapter twenty acres of water and later donated thirty-eight additional acres. Through the hard work and generosity of some of the members and public-spirited citizens gifts totaling nearly \$1,800 were received, which money was expended in securing a lease on ten acres of water from the Pennsylvania Railroad and seventy-two acres from the Big Four Railroad, both of which adjoined the above gift, making a total of 140 acres under control of the chapter. This body of water is located just north of West Terre Haute and was formerly known as the North Gravel Pit but the Waltonians changed the old name to the more appropriate one, Walton Lake, by which it is now known. There

are several islands in the lake which were formed by dumping large quantities of sand in piles. During the Summer months these islands are covered with various kinds of vegetation, greatly increasing the beauty of the lake.

In the early Summer of 1928 Walton Lake was opened to the public for swimming, no charge being made, as no lifeguards were employed. Rowboats were purchased and rented to fishermen. A large barge was also purchased to be used as a floating clubhouse and boat-landing. The barge was 100 feet by 42½ feet, with one room, 60 feet by 24 feet, which was used as a club-room. This barge was formally opened in October, 1928, with a Moose dinner. About 160 members were present at this event.

In 1929 a bathhouse was built and the beach opened to the public. A small charge was made to the swimmers using the bathhouse in which to change clothes.

In 1931 lifeguards were put on the beach and a small charge was made for swimming, together with the charge for the use of the bathhouse. Lombardy poplar trees were planted along the driveway leading to the bathhouse and beach.

In 1932 a concession stand was built to take care of the refreshment needs of bathers and others visiting the lake. During the Summer season twenty-five people are employed in various capacities, including five regular and five extra lifeguards and a caretaker, who is employed throughout the year. Floodlights were installed to furnish light for night bathing.

At the present time the chapter has sixteen first class rowboats for fishing and one outboard motor for the caretaker's use for emergency calls. The outboard is also used to aeriate the water at the beach. No other outboards are allowed on the lake.

About 45,000 people swim in Walton Lake each year, in addition to the many thousands who come there to fish and to watch the bathers. Visitors to our city from other states have enjoyed the cool waters of Walton Lake and all have praised the project very highly.

'Kennel Club.'

The Isaak Walton League Kennel Club was organized in the Winter of 1934-35. The club applied to the American Kennel Club for a license which was granted, and the first show was held Sunday, June 2, 1935 in the Municipal Stadium. The dogs for the shows are benched in the enclosure under the front part of the stadium where rings are constructed for the judging of the various breeds of dogs entered. The best-of-show-judging is held on the field under the flood lights after dark, which makes a beautiful setting for the climax of the show. The kennel club has held four successful shows and the Terre Haute shows are known throughout the United States for the fine trophies offered and also for the ideal location and arrangement of the show in caring for the dogs entered.

Meeting of the kennel club was held Jan. 11 and preliminary plans made for the fifth annual show to be held at Municipal Stadium Sunday, May 21, 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. E. M. Leach of Minneapolis will again be superintendent of this show. The following chairmen were appointed: Securing of judges, Farrell Rippetoe; Farris Strupp, C. E. Van Slyke; charge of gate, Richard Hawkins; box office, John Bahr; advertising, Henry Hoerhammer; trophies, Farris Strupp.

James Cox, Ralph Llewellyn and Harry Gauger; benching committee, Ed Hecklesberg, John Starke, Robert Glass, Russell Binning.

The show held at the stadium last year had an entry of 369 dogs of thirty-eight different breeds—entries from twenty-one different states, the most distant points being Texas, Florida, Colorado, California, Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland.

The show this year promises to be larger than any show previously held in Terre Haute, as inquiries are already coming in to Secretary Bigwood from handlers and owners of dogs regarding our show. The Terre Haute show is noted for the fine trophies given to winners, which has proved to draw numerous entries. These trophies will be on display in some store window in the business district several days preceding the show.

Quail Raising.

In the Fall of 1937, officers of the Walton League decided they would raise quail for release in the early Fall of 1938. They applied to the State Conservation Department for permission to locate two quail brooders under the direction of the Terre Haute chapter. The permission was given and plans were forwarded to the officers for the erection of two brooders, which were built at the cost of \$175 each. The arrangements made for 1938 were that Ed Hecklesberg would have charge of one of the brooders and Carl Miller would have charge of the second brooder. 355 quail were liberated after eight weeks in the brooders. 500 one-day-old chicks were received from the Conservation Department. During the first ten to twelve days these chicks must be fed five times a day with boiled eggs, in which time they consume about twenty-four dozen per brooder. After the fourth week, the quail are fed three or four times per day and they consume about 800 pounds of special quail food. These quail also consume about one acre of lettuce, which, of necessity must be the tenderest shoots. The quail were released in various parts of Vigo County and planted fifteen to a covey. The plans for 1939 are that both brooders will be in charge of Ed Hecklesberg of East Washington Avenue, which arrangement will be more satisfactory, as it will be centralized and more economical.

"Fish Rearing."

In the early Winter of 1932 the directors of the Terre Haute Chapter were urged to construct fish-rearing ponds. A committee consisting of Ed Stewart, John Bigwood and John Trierweiler was appointed to get busy on the project. A site was selected in a ravine at the east end of Deming Park, which was quite swampy due to the many small springs located there. Mr. Beecher Cromwell donated \$150 toward the building of the first pond. Mr. Stewart and his committee and others interested worked very hard on this project and later completed a second pond connecting with the first pond. The Conservation Department of the state supplied the large-mouth bass fry in the early Summer and in the Fall of the year about 900 fingerlings were taken out and distributed in Vigo County waters.

In 1933 the same committee was reappointed and under their direction a lighting system was installed over the rearing ponds which elec-

introduced the bugs which dropped to the water, providing feed for the fish. Work on the third pond was also started in 1933. In the Fall of 1933, 4,200 fingerlings were taken out and placed in the Vigo County waters. In 1934, under the direction of Floyd Cottom, Charles Reynolds, John Higwood and John Trlerweller, an additional pond was completed, bringing the total cost to about \$1,200 for the four ponds that now made up the fish hatcheries. In 1936 and 1937 another pond was constructed which is known as No. 5 pond and gives the fish hatcheries a water acreage of approximately six acres. The ponds were in charge of Ed Heckelsberg, Glenn Cowgill and Robert Glass in 1938.

Report from the fish rearing pond committee revealed the fact that 10,069 fish were raised in the rearing ponds at Deming Park and distributed to public fishing waters in Vigo County. The size of the fish were 5,087, 8 inches or larger; 2,659, 7 inches or more; 1,732, 4 inches or more, which were large-mouth bass. Quite a number of crappies and bluegills were also raised and released along with the bass.

In October, 1934, the work of landscaping the ground around the rearing ponds was begun under the direction of Guy Stantz, principal of Gerstmeyer Technical High School. Mr. Stantz will secure, if possible, every wild flower, fern, and tree of the state, which will be planted in the grounds he is to landscape. This will give the school children, who wish to get acquainted with the plant life of Indiana, an ideal place to acquire that knowledge. At least twenty-five varieties of native ferns will be used on the sloping hillsides leading down to the pools. On the other slopes there will be wild seedum, ginger, hepatica, violets and scores of other wild flowers. Shrubs will also be set out, including spirea, weigella, mock orange, evergreens, elders, sumac and dogwoods. All the landscaping will be done with the idea of returning the woods to their natural state. When these ponds are fully completed they will be second to none in the state.

'Library of Motion Pictures.'

The motion picture library was organized in 1936 under the direction of Guy Stantz, principal of Gerstmeyer Technical High School. The Terre Haute Chapter purchased a 16 M. M. camera, a projector and screen. The library now consists of approximately 20,000 feet of moving picture film on various subjects pertaining to the out of doors, showing pictures of some of our national parks, state parks and the national game preservation. The library also includes pictures taken locally of various events connected with the history of Terre Haute and vicinity since 1936.

These motion pictures are available to any club, society or organization that would like to use them. No charge is made for the use of this equipment and whenever possible an operator is furnished to take care of the moving picture program. Anyone desiring to avail himself of this opportunity in pictures should get in touch with Mr. Stantz and reserve his date. Up to the present time the pictures have been shown to about 60,000 to 80,000 people in Terre Haute and vicinity. Various league members,

along with Mr. Stantz, have traveled to Sullivan, Shelbyville, Farmersburg, Brazil, Rockville and other points near Terre Haute to accommodate those desiring pictures.

Catholicity in Terre Haute Dates From Efforts of Wilderness Priest

Dating almost from the day of the founding of the city of Terre Haute, Catholicity has played an integral part in the community life of this city. Extensive research by the Rev. Pascal Murray, O. M. C., and A. R. Markle, local historian, reveals that for twenty-one years after the city's founding Catholics were without a church of their own. It was not until 1837 that the first church was built within the city.

Father Pascal's research, published in the centennial book of St. Joseph parish, states that early settlers depended on the ministrations of the Rev. Stanislaus Buteux, a zealous young French missionary, who was minister to a parish so large that he could offer the holy sacrifice and mass only at long intervals. (It is likely that Father Buteux's kindness and wisdom was required by all in the settlement, regardless of creed.)

Father Pascal's treatise speaks of the planning for the first Catholic church in the city as follows: "... in Jan., 1837, Bishop Brute visited Terre Haute and made the first definite plans for the establishment of a church. Visiting with Father Buteux at Thralls Station" (site some four miles west of the city near what is now Saint Mary's Village. Father Buteux had built a rude log church there.) Bishop Brute in a letter dated Jan. 6, 1837, to his benefactors of the Leopoldine Society, Vienna, Austria, states: "Terre Haute and the region near Paris in the state of Illinois are assigned to Father Buteux."

Property Procured.

"In all probability it was during his (Bishop Brute's) stay with Father Buteux that the property for the new church in Terre Haute was procured. The original deed of Inlot Number 10 on which the first St. Joseph's church was built is dated Jan. 12, 1837. Therein are described the transaction and the terms of the purchase by one 'Simon Gabriel Brute of the County of Knox.' This Simon Gabriel Brute was the Most Rev. Simon Brute, the first Bishop of Vincennes, a gentle, scholarly, saintly Frenchman. The bishop had bought the property from Lucius H. Scott and James Wasson 'in consideration of the sum of \$500 current money of the United States to them in hand.' The two gentlemen, being highest bidders at a sale a few months before had paid Sheriff Jones \$350 for the lot. Scott and Wasson had bought these lots on Nov. 1, 1836."

Later in the year of 1837 the good people of this vast parish of Father Buteux saw the first op-

eration in the construction of their church begin. And in the summer of 1840 St. Joseph's church was dedicated.

Father Buteux' Announcement.

As has been written before—and cannot be written too many times again—the dedication of the long anticipated church was not only a day of joy and worship for the Catholic citizens, but it was also a day upon which all citizens of this pioneer city paid respect to the first Catholic church in their community. In this vein, Father Pascal writes, "Of noteworthy interest is the appreciation expressed by Father Buteux to the non-Catholics of Terre Haute in the invitation he extended through the medium of the Wabash Gazette, Wednesday, July 22, 1840."

The message is herewith copied: "Dedication of the Catholic church in Terre Haute. S. Buteux has the satisfaction to inform the public that the Catholic church in Terre Haute will be dedicated on Sunday next, the 26th of July; when the citizens are respectfully invited to attend."

"He would do injustice to his own feelings if he did not take advantage of this occasion to return his most grateful thanks to the citizens of Terre Haute, of all denominations, for the Christian charity and generous liberality evinced by them in contributing to the erection of this edifice. S. BUTEUX, pastor."

Father Buteux remained pastor of St. Joseph's parish until 1842. He was succeeded by Father Simon Petit Lalumiere, the first full-time pastor of the church. Father Lalumiere also is noted in the history of the church in Terre Haute as being the first native born priest of Indiana to labor in the Diocese of Vincennes, presently the Diocese of Indianapolis.

Other Parishes Established.

St. Joseph church was the only Catholic church in Terre Haute until 1864 when a small number of German Catholics of Terre Haute established St. Benedict's church.

This small group held three meetings for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of building a church of their own. They had previously attended the divine services at St. Joseph church.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Oct. 2, 1864, and in the following year the edifice was formally dedicated to the services of God.

Two years later another parish was established. This parish was to serve the northeast section of the city and was named Saint Ann parish. The Rev. Michael Quinlin was the first pastor at St. Ann church.

The three churches, St. Joseph, St. Benedict's and St. Ann, prospered and grew through the years. Buildings were improved and remodeled and the parishes grew in spirit and numbers as the city increased in size and population.

Again in 1881 Terre Haute saw another church founded in the city. This parish, in the east part of the city, was to bear the name of St. Patrick. The church and parish buildings were constructed at 416 South Thirteenth street. The Rev. Thomas X. Logan was placed in charge of the parish and the church was built under his surveillance.

Not until 1911 was another parish created, then the St. Leonard parish was established that the residents of West Terre Haute might have a church of their own.